

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7018
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. S. Gene McNeeley
of Norris.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. S. Gene McNeeley, a retired physician and committed public servant from Norris; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McNeeley was a greatly beloved public servant who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for many of his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, "Dr. Gene," as he was popularly known, served the people of several East Tennessee counties with a deep generosity and boundless compassion, as he made house calls to isolated rural homes and delivered more than three thousand babies; and

WHEREAS, during his many decades of service, Dr. McNeeley earned the respect of his peers and patients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McNeeley, who grew up in Tazewell, was the grandson of a physician, and exhibited an early interest in medicine; as a boy, he was often found by his mother reading and studying by the light of a kerosene lantern behind a wood stove in the kitchen; and

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-two, Gene McNeeley graduated at the top of his 1945 class from the University of Tennessee Medical School; he later interned at Wesley Memorial Hospital in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, upon completing military service in 1948, he and his new wife, Madeline, moved to Norris and set up a general practice in a former farmhouse; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gene McNeeley, throughout his many years of faithful service as a physician, regularly saw fifty to seventy-five patients per day, regardless of their ability to pay, and after retiring in 1991, continued to serve his community by attending to the needs of many of his longtime patients in their homes; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gene and Madeline McNeeley were among the founding members of St. Francis Episcopal Church in Norris, where Dr. McNeeley served faithfully for many years as lay leader and head of the church's mission council; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his constancy of faith, Dr. McNeeley was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Gene McNeeley was blessed with the loving companionship of his wife, Madeline, and was the proud father of Dr. Gene McNeeley Jr., Dr. Trent McNeeley, Dr. Howard McNeeley, Dr. David McNeeley, Judith McNeeley Ryland, and Bill McNeeley; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gene McNeeley inspired four of his six children to become doctors, with two of his sons joining him in practice at the McNeeley Family Clinic; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McNeeley is also survived by his eighteen beloved grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Gene McNeeley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. S. Gene McNeeley, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and compassion as a physician and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. S. Gene McNeeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.